

Mr. Carins

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: June 30, 1953

WASHINGTON, June 29: The Trustees of the National Gallery of Art announce the retirement of Colonel Harry A. McBride, the first Administrator of the National Gallery of Art, on June 30, 1953, pursuant to the Gallery's retirement policy. Colonel McBride was appointed Administrator of the Gallery on August 31, 1938, and served on the committee which supervised the construction of the Gallery building, which is one of the largest marble structures in the world. Since the Gallery was opened on March 17, 1941, he has been in charge of its administrative affairs, and the protection of the works of art. He has also been Chairman of the Gallery's Publications Fund.

Before being appointed Administrator of the National Gallery, Colonel McBride was, for 34 years, a well-known Foreign Service Officer stationed in Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Belgian Congo, England, Liberia and Poland. From 1931 to 1938, he was detailed to the Department of State as Assistant to Secretaries Stimson and Hull.

During World War II, Colonel McBride was on the General Staff and accompanied Secretary Hull to Moscow in 1943. He served during the war period in Africa and Europe.

David E. Finley, Director of the Gallery, said: "Colonel McBride has had a vital part in organizing the National Gallery of Art during its critical, formative years. When the building was being erected, his advice was invaluable in working out the most practical and orderly arrangements, as it was later in establishing the administrative rules, and in selecting the personnel for the operation of the building. His wide experience with governmental procedure, his efficiency and wisdom in dealing with people, his specialized knowledge of printing and publishing and his work as Chairman of the Gallery's Publications Fund, have contributed immeasurably to the successful operation of the National Gallery since it was established. His retirement is a great loss to me, personally, and to his many friends in the Gallery by whom he will be greatly missed. "